

MI Child Support Formula - Child Support

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To: Michigan Supreme Court <mcsf@courts.mi.gov>
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Subject: Child Support

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Gentlemen and/or Ladies:

According to an article in the Lansing State Journal, you are hearing testimony and e-mails on the subject of lowering the amount of time a spouse has to spend with his children to be considered a joint guardian for joint custody, thus having child support reduced and/or done away with. As a person who works with the finances of people going through and after divorce, I think this is a bad idea.

First, if a parent who has a child every other weekend would be allowed to lower his or her support by 50%, the child is the one who loses. For taking care of that child for 14.25% of the year the child loses 35.75% of the income used for his or her care. The article said that this should help low income people who are divorced. I see it helping the spouse with 52 day of care and hurting the other spouse and the children within the family.

Second, divorce in Michigan is too easy. Making a divorce less costly to a spouse, will create more divorces, thus, creating more single parents and children raised by single parents without enough money to care for those children.

If there is an area that the courts should be looking at, it is spousal support. The state has set up guidelines that few courts follow. I cannot tell you how many times I have heard, "You may get that in the big city, but you won't get it here!"

Sincerely,

Ted

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